

1 Interview Summaries

1.1 Town of Camden (Code Enforcement Officer, Planner, Health Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector)

Interview Type	Personal, Municipality
Interview Location	Camden Town Offices
Interview Date	October 23, 2001
Summary Date	November 8, 2001
Interviewer	CDM / Michelle Thaler (thalerma@cdm.com)
Interviewed:	Jeffrey Nims, Code Enforcement, Officer Planner, Health Officer, Plumbing Inspector (jnims@town.camden.me.us) 29 Elm Street Camden, ME 04843 207-236-3353
Staff Size (approx)	No full time GIS staff
Budget (approx)	
URL:	http://camden.k2bh.com/

1.1.1 Overview

Currently, GIS activities in the Town of Camden are limited. There are no dedicated GIS staff. Town employees use GIS data and technology in their daily work processes, however. GIS data has been developed as part of a push from the Planning Board. Initial tasks included photogrammetry to develop a landbase and some data layer creation.

1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

1.1.2.1 Overview of GIS Utilization

The Code Enforcement Officer/Planner uses GIS daily. His office is located in the Town Office. There is one other copy of GIS software in the Town Office used by the Assessor. Computers in the Town Office are not networked.

1.1.2.2 GIS Operating Environment and Infrastructure

- 5 copies of ArcView 3.2 (2 at WWTP, 1 at Fire, 2 at Town Office)
- Hardware includes:
 - 3 PCs running Windows 95 and Microsoft Office 97 in Town Office
 - 1 Plotter, in Assessing department, capable of making large color plots
 - 1 PC at Town Office with a cable modem connection to the internet
 - 1 PC at the fire station has cable modem connection

1.1.2.3 GIS Data Resources and Requirements

1.1.2.3.1 Spatial Data

- There are over approximately 60 paper maps showing the town's 3,000 parcels. These maps were updated in 1996. There are less than 10 new parcels annually.
- Digital data is in StatePlane NAD83 feet.

Existing data sets include:

Basemap features:

Limited planimetrics from photogrammetry project in 1994.

Analysis layers include:

Parcels (completed in house)

20 ft Contours

Data from OGIS includes Soils and Wetlands

FEMA floodplain

Zoning (prepared by Cartegraphics)

Fire Hydrant (Fire department used GPS to capture)

Permit data layer linked to the MS Access database

NWI from OGIS

Sewer (created by DPW)

Manholes (created by DPW)

Currently unavailable but desired data sets include:

School district boundaries

Utility data layers

E911 data from OGIS

Water company data including distribution system data

1.1.2.3.2 Attribute Data

CAMA system is moving to Northern Data Systems

Town has an MS Access database for permitting. This data is linked to a GIS datalayer and thematically mapped in a GIS application.

1.1.2.3.3 Data Issues

Want +/- 2 ft. accuracy for setback requirements and to reduce survey costs.

The Town exchanges data with local land trusts on occasion.

1.1.2.4 GIS Applications and Application Requirements

Cartegraphics built a GIS application in ArcView that allows the Code Enforcement Officer/Planner to examine parcels along with their setbacks. This application thematically maps parcels by permit information.

The Code Enforcement Officer/Planner would like to see septic system data.

The Code Enforcement Officer/Planner would also consider a desktop application in the assessor's office but there is no real demand for GIS data from the public.

Planned future GIS activity and applications:

None

1.1.3 Other Relevant Issues

- A GIS Needs Assessment was completed by Cartegraphics. Initial funding was \$20,000 for photogrammetry to produce planimetrics. Then \$10,000 was spent to develop the parcel layer.
- K2BH, a local community Internet service provider, hosts the town wide parcel data. Realtors must subscribe to K2BH to access the parcel data. Data is updated by the Assessor.
- The Town of Camden would like to see OGIS serve as an educational and support agency for the development of GIS data in the state. Many towns are in need of guidance in the creation of data. The state could lay out the steps needed to create a landbase and then the process for developing data layers on that landbase.
- The Town of Camden is concerned about focusing GIS data development funds strictly on regional planning agencies. Not all towns work with regional planning agencies and some of these agencies are not as helpful to towns as they could be. There is concern that GIS data created might reside with the regional planning agency instead of the town. The Town of Camden would rather see OGIS and the State empower towns to develop and maintain their own data.

1.1.4 Major Benefits and Cost Justification

The Town can reduce survey costs by using planimetric data with a +/- 2ft accuracy for setback analysis.

The Town would benefit from a statewide standard for data accuracy. This would allow the towns to exchange data with neighboring towns without concern for accuracy issues.

Towns would also benefit from assistance from OGIS in applying for grants for GIS data development, application development and hardware and software. Many communities would like to use GIS but are not sure what sources of funding are available.